X stops showing headlines because Elon Musk thinks it will make posts look better

X, formerly Twitter, is no longer showing headlines on articles shared on the platform. Instead, X is only showing the article’s lead image and the domain it will link you to.

You can see the differences between the new version of link previews in the X iOS app and the old version on the web in this comparison image I stitched together:

a:hover]:text-gray-63 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63 dark:[&>a]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray”>Screenshots by Jay Peters / The Verge
I also made a post on X to demonstrate what’s going on.

a:hover]:text-gray-63 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63 dark:[&>a]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray”>Screenshot by Jay Peters / The Verge
After I first published this article, I also saw the new format on the web.

a:hover]:text-gray-63 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63 dark:[&>a]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray”>Screenshot by Jay Peters / The Verge
This change, while very annoying, doesn’t come as a total

surprise. *Fortune* reported in August that this change was in the works, and X owner Elon Musk confirmed that the switchover was “coming from me directly” and would “greatly improve the esthetics [sic].” I don’t have an Android device to test with, but if the change hasn’t already appeared on the Android version of the app, I’d guess it will show up there eventually.

In my opinion, removing headlines makes X *harder* to use — posts are less easy to parse at a glance — so I’m not sure if this change is going to lead to people posting more often like Musk hopes.

***Update October 5th, 1:02AM ET**: The change has appeared on the web, too.*

https://www.theverge.com/2023/10/4/23903859/x-elon-musk-headlines-links-image-twitter